

REMARKS

THE PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

With the preliminary amendment set forth herein, applicants are correcting minor typographical errors that appeared in the application when the originally filed application from 1995 was scanned for word processing. All corrections are of a minor nature and address misspellings in words and inappropriate spacings or obvious errors in chemical formulas. The change to paragraph 0035 is supported in the prior applications, e.g., see, page 7 of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/769,806, now U.S. Patent No. 5,874,500. In addition, claim 17 has also been amended to correct an obvious typographical error. No new matter has been added to the application with the changes made herein.

THE SPECIES ELECTION REQUIREMENT

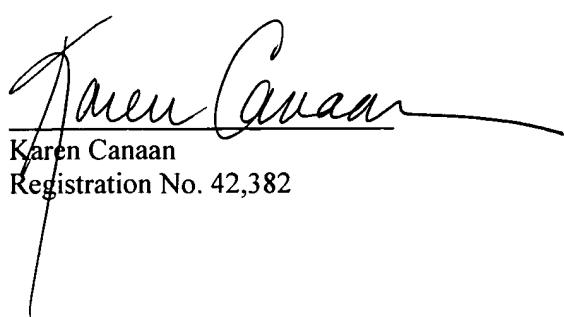
The substance of the Office Action under reply is a request for a species election; specifically, the Examiner has requested that applicants elect a single disclosed first cross-linkable component completely identified by a single disclosed nucleophilic group and a second cross-linkable component completely identified by a single disclosed electrophilic group for prosecution on the merits.

In response, applicants elect a first crosslinkable component with sulphydryl groups as the m nucleophilic group and a second crosslinkable component with sulphydryl-reactive groups as the n electrophilic group. Claims reading on both the first and second crosslinkable components are claims 1-15, 21-49, and 54-68. Applicants confirm that the election of the species set forth herein are for purposes of search and examination only and that upon allowance of a generic claim, any non-elected species will be subject to consideration. As acknowledged by the Examiner, claims 1 and 35 are generic.

With this response to the species election requirement, the application is in condition for substantive examination. The Examiner may direct any questions regarding the instant application to the undersigned attorney at 650-330-4913 or canaan@reedpatent.com

Respectfully submitted,

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